

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
Sixty-second Series of Meetings
October 3-8, 2021
Written General Statement AUSTRIA (Agenda Item 5)

[Honorable Chair, Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,]

The Delegation of Austria would like to align itself with the statement made by the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B as well as the statement delivered by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would also like to express our thanks to the WIPO Secretariat for the preparation of these Assemblies in these extraordinary times and to all WIPO staff for upholding premier services to the IP Community in the last months still under difficult circumstances.

On the outset, we would like to express our appreciation and congratulate Director General Daren Tang and his senior management team for successfully leading WIPO during these difficult times with special emphasis on the ability of intellectual property protection and rights to offer incentives and solutions to react to the pandemic.

Based on the positive reports of the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC), the Director of the Internal Oversight Division (IOD) and the External Auditor we note with appreciation the assessed financial health of WIPO and the uninterrupted continuation of providing first class services to the world-wide IP-Community despite the specific circumstances due to the pandemic.

We very much welcome the positive recommendation of the Program and Budget (PBC) and stand ready to add our vote to the recommended **adoption of the Proposed Program of Work and Budget for 2022/23** with special emphasis on on-going and new responses to the Covid-19 pandemic but also to other challenges like swift economic recovery based on sustainable green technology and/or artificial intelligence. We like to assure the DG and his team, as well as Member States of Austria's support in bringing the visions and initiatives in this ambitious strategic plan to life.

In this regard with SMEs being the backbone of our economy we especially welcome the envisaged special outreach to individuals and SMEs in particular and look forward to the implementation of the respective actions and initiatives presented.

Given the global dimension of the challenges facing society and the desire to find combined and universally valid reactions to them via intensified co-operation we fully support the recommendation of the PBC requesting WIPO to accept the invitation to **become a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group ((UNSDG))**.

With this perspective in mind and as a Member of the Coordination Committee (CoCo) we also welcome and stand ready to approve the 2 **Memorandums of Understanding** regulating co-operation between WIPO and the **European Patent Office (EPO)** as well as the **International Renewable Energy Association (IRENA)** as contracting and cooperation Partners.

Also in our capacity as a Member of the CoCo we especially welcome the **proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules** in regard to maternity and paternity leave and are ready to approve all proposed amendments contained in Doc. WO/CC/80/3.

In regard to the work in the Standing Committee on the Law of Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) we like to deposit our special interest and ambition to continue substantive work heading at convening a diplomatic conference to conclude a **Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations** in the near future circumstances allowing.

We are hopeful that this General Assembly keeps seeking solutions to pave the way towards convening a diplomatic conference on the adoption of the **Design Law Treaty on Design Application formalities**, where the basic text has been stable since 2014 and which would greatly benefit designers all around the globe by simplifying design application and registration procedures.

Based on the recommendations adopted at **IGC**-session 41 we also support the **renewal of the IGC mandate** and Work Program for 2022/2023 and stand ready to continue working constructively under the renewed mandate.

Concerning the **PCT**, Austria, as a member of the **Committee for Technical Cooperation (CTC)**, has lent its vote to the unanimous decision to recommend to the PCT Assembly the **appointment of the Eurasian Patent Office as International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT** and is therefore looking forward to welcoming the Eurasian Patent Office in the family of ISAs and IPEAs soon.

We take note of the results of the review of the supplementary international search system and stand ready to support a decision of the PCT-Assembly to invite the IB to continue to monitor the system and report on significant developments before a second review taking place not later than 2027.

Austria has also again been able to actively participate in the sessions of the **PCT Working Group** under consideration. Therefore we welcome and support the proposed **amendments to the PCT Regulations** as contained in Document PCT/A/53/3.

As deposited in our written response to Circular C. PCT 1626/C. CWS. 150 we support the recommendation to postpone the **implementation date of WIPO Standard ST.26** from January 1 to July 1, 2022.

With regard to the **Madrid System** we stand ready to adopt the proposed **amendments to the Rules of the Regulations under the Madrid Protocol** as well as the proposed **amendments to the Schedule of fees** as contained in Document MM/A/55/1 which provide clarifications and simplifications to certain procedures of the Madrid system especially in regard to relief measures when a time limit provided in the Regulations could not be met.

Finally, we like to assure the membership and the top management of WIPO of Austria's ongoing support to the pursuit of WIPO's global goals.

[Thank you.]